

## Review: Marc Hogan, Zoo Southside

August 15, 2009

Reviewed by Oliver Gaywood



\*\*\* 3 STARS

In the relaxed atmosphere of Zoo Southside's Cabaret Lounge, Marc Hogan seems perfectly at home and, to the unknowing eye, it is not at all apparent that this is his first year on the comedy circuit.

Coming from a background as a corporate communications trainer, Marc exudes confidence on the stage. Backed with a safety blanket of a graph-filled PowerPoint presentation, Marc fulfils his aim to entertain his crowd and to win a £1 bet with his mate.

As a newcomer to the scene there are things Marc still has to learn about comic performing. In uncertain waters, he grasps for the safety lines of well used comedy topics but without adding enough of his own input to make them stand out as his own. He also struggles at times to make cohesive links between his sections and even with a professional looking slideshow behind him things sometimes come across as being a bit disjointed.

For his first time in Edinburgh, however, Marc has done considerably well fitting into the life of a festival performer and he has definitely added positively to the overall Fringe experience.

Marc openly admits that this project has been a lot harder than he imagined and with that has come a new respect for those on the circuit. With a bit of perseverance, Marc could find himself permanently on that circuit without looking at all out of place. He clearly has a good stage presence and with a bit more work he could further his journey from being 'quite funny' for a motivational speaker to 'quite funny' for a comedian.

He may have already won his bet, but if Marc's opponent was to offer 'double or quits', I'd strongly urge Marc to accept and return to Edinburgh next year.